

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, June 13, 2012 9:15 AM – 11:35 AM
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

ATTENDEES:

Work Group Members and Alternates, and the Organizations or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:

Mark Biever (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Rich Doenges** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Mel Oleson** (Boeing), Business Groups; **Tony Paulson** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co.), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Heather Trim** (People For Puget Sound), Environmental Groups.

Others in attendance: **Bill Taylor**, Cardno TEC.

Work Group Staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), Project Manager.

WORK GROUP MEMBERS APPROVE TEMPLATE FOR FUTURE SUBGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Earlier this year, work group members identified a need for a common format and clear expectations for our subgroups to use in developing recommendations for work group approval. The Work Plan Subgroup combined previously discussed approaches into a single document that was approved today with minor edits. This template is considered guidance to our subgroups. The template is considered a starting point and may be revised in the future as our work evolves.

WORK GROUP ASSIGNS QAPP REVIEW TO STATUS AND TRENDS OVERSIGHT SUBGROUPS

Work group members discussed the confusion caused by current draft Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for status and trends monitoring that describe monitoring activities that are not proposed to be conducted using permittees' pooled resources. Work group members expressed an overall preference that QAPPs include all of the relevant monitoring for SWAMPPS and with the permittee-funded RSMP components clearly identified. This way, programs implementing the RSMP can more readily choose to fund or seek funding to conduct important but otherwise unfunded data collection at the same time. It will also make the process more transparent.

Work group members tasked the SWG Small Streams and Marine Nearshore Status and Trends Oversight Subgroups with going through the QAPPs this summer. Specifically, subgroups are tasked with aligning the QAPP activities with SWG recommendations in the *2010 Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region* and in the *Recommendations for Municipal Stormwater Permit Monitoring*, identifying which QAPP activities are included in SWAMPPS and which SWAMPPS activities are also in the RSMP, and highlighting any changes from our recommendations.

Subgroups will report their findings – and recommendations for data management (previously assigned) – to the work group this fall. The work group will need to approve any changes or new recommendations, but not the detailed QAPPs.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT ECOLOGY-FUNDED RSMP PROJECTS

Following up on conversations at the last two work group meetings, Ecology is currently developing scopes of work with Pierce County for further stream gauging analyses and a seasonal mussel study; and with the Association of Washington Cities for syntheses of the findings of the effectiveness literature review and for logistical support for the new SWG Roads and Highways Subgroup.

Work group members discussed how we can seek and apply for additional sources of money. Some work group members may volunteer to help write specific grants, but a new grants subgroup is not considered sustainable.

WORK GROUP AGREES ON MESSAGES FOR JULY 2012 ISSUE OF SWG REPORTER

The next issue of the SWG Reporter will go out in July and will announce that (1) the USGS stream gauging analysis report commissioned for the work group has been published, (2) Ecology-funded projects are moving regional stormwater monitoring forward in advance of the permits and anticipated pooled resources, (3) the Source IDentification Information Repository (SIDIR) will provide a tool for local governments and others to improve pollution reduction techniques, and local government staff interviews are being conducted to guide its creation, (4) effectiveness literature review syntheses are coming this fall-winter, (5) the municipal stormwater permits will be issued soon.

Work group members suggested that the subgroups and their ongoing activities be listed in the “About the SWG” item at the end of each SWG Reporter issue. After the permits are issued, the SWG Reporter should provide a summary of the total amount of money expected to be contributed by various sources to conduct the RSMP.

WORK GROUP SUGGESTS WEBPAGE IMPROVEMENTS

This summer, project manager Karen Dinicola will make changes to our webpages to make them more useful to work group members, subgroup members, and other interested parties. The [Ecology site](#) will be the primary SWG webpage. The current “References” page will become “Subgroups” with meeting notes and old versions of documents. The [Google site](#) will have each subgroup listed on the navigation bar, and working documents that are less than about six months old. Karen will develop a file naming convention that allows attachments to be posted in useful order, and will add direct links to key documents that are posted on the Ecology site.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT PSEMP AND OTHER MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The other work groups are developing inventories of ongoing monitoring and current knowledge to identify gaps and support recommendations for priorities. Placeholders will be added for RSMP activities expected to be conducted after the permits are issued. As the multiple work groups are getting established the work groups’ staff are talking about ways to coordinate communication on overlapping topics. In particular, we should “share” our status and trends subgroups with other work groups to reduce duplication of efforts and align decision making.

The level and scale of decision-making by the PSEMP steering committee is being established. This work group will continue to submit recommendations directly to Ecology and the Puget Sound Partnership until other protocols are adopted. Meanwhile, our agricultural runoff pesticide monitoring recommendations should be presented to and discussed by the PSEMP Toxics Workgroup.

WORK GROUP CHAIR WILL DELIVER APPROVED OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHARTER TO ECOLOGY

Jim Simmonds will send the final Pooled Resources Oversight Committee Charter approved at our last work group meeting to Ecology with a cover letter before the end of this month.

WORK GROUP CONSIDERS NEED FOR QUORUM PROTOCOL AND FEWER, LONGER MEETINGS

This work group meeting and our last work group meeting were sparsely attended. Some work group members expressed concern that in the absence of a quorum, broad buy-in for our recommendations is not assured. Work group members generally agreed that if a significant number of our caucuses are not present, we should be cautious in decision making. To encourage continued participation we might consider having fewer meetings (bimonthly or quarterly) that last five or six hours instead of three.

Work group members charged the SWG Work Plan Subgroup with drafting a quorum proposal and a schedule for 2013 meetings to be considered this fall.

UPCOMING WORK GROUP MEETINGS

The work group's upcoming meetings and expected discussion topics are:

- Wednesday, September 19, 2012 from 9am to noon at the USGS Office in Tacoma:
 - Discuss agricultural runoff nutrient and bacteria monitoring recommendations
 - Discuss Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR) findings and recommendations
 - Hear about initial work of the Roads and Highways Subgroup
 - Discuss the permits Ecology issued in August
 - Hear about webpage redesigns
 - Hear status of implementing our work plan and subgroup work accomplished over the summer
 - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and about other monitoring activities
- Wednesday, October 17, 2012 from 9am to noon at the USGS Office in Tacoma:
 - Approve agricultural runoff nutrient and bacteria monitoring recommendations
 - Approve Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR) findings and recommendations
 - Discuss subgroup reviews of QAPPs
 - Discuss subgroup recommendations for data storage/sharing systems, SOPs, technical assistance
 - Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
 - Hear status of implementing our work plan and subgroup work
 - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and about other monitoring activities

Acronyms used in this meeting summary:

PSEMP: Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program

QAPP: Quality Assurance Project Plan

RSMP: Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

SIDIR: Source Identification Information Repository

SOP: Standard Operating Procedure (or Protocol)

SWAMPPS: Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound

SWG: Stormwater Work Group

USGS: United States Geological Survey